iv) Development of the rural sector,

v) Focus on women's role in economic activity, and

vi) Employment.

The directional paper of the Eighth Plan (1992-97) outlines specific objectives for infrastructure development (in the sectors of energy, transport and communication), for human development (full literary employment, population control, minimum health care and drinking water) and for agricultural development (extending green revolution to other parts of the country and creating agricultural surplus for export).

It envisages an annual average growth rate of 5.6% of GDP for the period 1992-97

Discussion over Priorities of Eighth Plan

61. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: Will the Minister of PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had discussions with the Deputy Chairman of the planning Commission on October 25, 1991 on the broad dimensions and priorities of Eighth Plan; and

(b) if so, the main points discussed in the meeting and the suggestions, if any, given by the Managing Director of IMF regarding the Eighth Plan?

THE MINISYER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANINING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the meeting , Deputy Chairman, planning Commission, apprised the Managing Director, IMF of the broad dimensions and priorities of the draft Eighth Plan. This included the various thrust areas such as infrastructure, human development, literacy, population, agriculture and employment generation, and policies for increased participation of private initiative in the infrastructure and industrial development and the steps taken to overcome Balance of payment crisis and attract foreign Investment. Managing Director of IMF expressed his appreciation for the recent policy changes and the plan priorities and strategies. The discussion was general, and no specific suggestions were made by the Managing director, IMF.

Prediction of Earth Quake

62. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Atomic Energy has undertaken any study with the objective of prediction of earthquake in the Himalayan Region.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the approximate expenditure involved therein; and

(d) whether the programme for this study is time-bound and if so, the extent thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (d). The Department of Atomic Energy has not undertaken any study with the objective of predicting earth quakes in the Himalayan region. Bhabha Atomic Research Centre of this Department is equipped with a medium aperture seismic array at Gauribidanur in Southern India, a small array at Delhi and a Radio Telemetered Regional Seismic Network near Bhatsa Dam in Western Maharashtra. These Seismic installations monitor continuously seismic activity from both natural earthquakes and underground explosions.